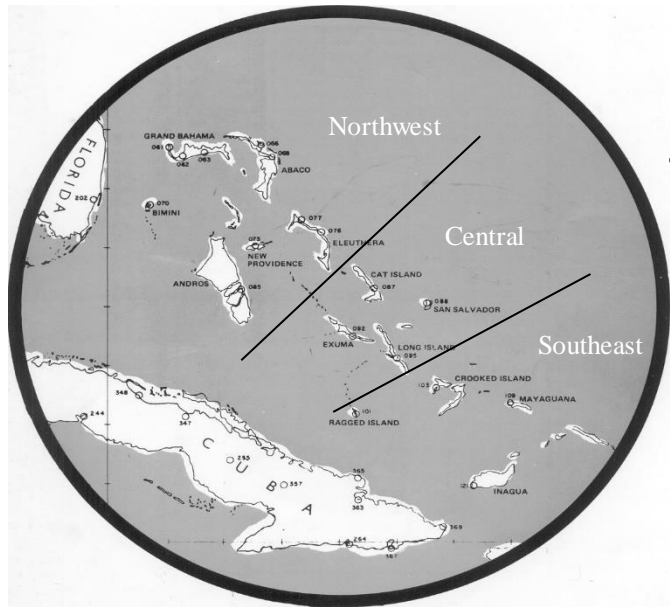




Commonwealth of The Bahamas

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WEATHER LOG

MARCH, 2021

GENERAL WEATHER SITUATION OVER THE BAHAMAS

The month of March brought a mixed bag of weather, which is usual as the season changes from winter to spring in the United States of America, this change also affected the Bahamas. There was a combined nine Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Watches issued across the archipelago along with moderate to large ocean swells that prevented Small Craft Operators and Beachgoers from entering the sea at times. The temperatures were seasonally warm, during both the daytime and the nighttime. The month was also quite dry with the little rainfall that occurred quickly evaporating by hotter than average temperatures. It remained gusty for most days of the month with the average wind direction from the south-southeast. Relative humidity was lower than average but continued around the low seventy percent.

The first week of March (01st through 06th) high pressure system over the area shifted east of the islands as a cold front, attached to a low pressure system off Carolina's coast, dragged the front across the archipelago producing some unsettled weather. Before the weakened front could make its way through the Southeast Bahamas, a reinforcing trough/frontal boundary brought further unsettled weather across the Northwest Bahamas. Partly to variably cloudy and warm conditions brought few scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly near the front/trough. Boaters and Beachgoers were warned to be vigilant for the threat of waterspout activity and the risk of rip currents mainly along north and east coast beaches. Small Craft Operators were advised to exercise caution due to winds or ocean swells mainly across the Northwest and Central Bahamas. Daytime temperatures across the archipelago range from the low to upper-80's (°F) and minimum temperatures ranging from the mid-60's to mid-70's (°F). On Saturday the 06th March 2021 a Severe Thunderstorm Watch for Extreme Northwest Bahamas including the islands of Bimini, Grand Bahama, and Abaco was issued from 7:00 pm EST to 9:00 EST, and then additionally for the Berry Islands and their adjacent waters from 9:00 pm EST to 11:00 pm EST. An updated Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued for Berry Islands, North and Central Andros, and their adjacent waters and a Severe Thunderstorm Watch was issued for the Abacos, New Providence, North and Central Eleuthera, and their adjacent waters from 10:30 pm EST to 11:55 pm EST. A cluster of showers with embedded thunderstorms associated with an area of low pressure moved northeastwards across and towards the warning and watch areas.

During the second week of March (07th – 13th) a cold front continued to move through the Central and Southeast Bahamas as a strong high pressure built north of the area, resulting in both hazardous marine and beaching conditions. Small Craft Operators were advised to remain in port and Beachgoers refrained from swimming. Motorists and pedestrians were warned to exercise extreme caution while they traversed coastal roads, especially The Glass Window Bridge, Eleuthera, and The Fishing Hole Road, Grand Bahama as sea spray, wind-blown sand, and over-topping waves can reduce visibility producing hazardous driving conditions. There also remained the chance of waterspout activity along the frontal zone along with heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. A persistent high pressure continued to produce fresh to strong breezes over the archipelago along with rough surf, high seas, dangerous rip currents, and ocean swells. Winds veered from the north through the east at between 20 to 30 knots over all areas. Seas were 7 to 10 feet but built 8 to 12 feet in northerly to easterly swells through the end of the week. Partly to mostly cloudy, windy, and warm conditions existed most of the week with few quick passing showers. Temperature across the Bahamas had a wide range from the low 90's to low 70's (°F) for highs and in the upper 50's to upper 70's (°F) for lows. A Severe Thunderstorm Warnings was issued from 12:00 am EST to 2:00 pm EST on Sunday 07th March 2021 for Andros, New Providence, North and Central Eleuthera, and their adjacent waters. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch was also in effect for the same time for Northern Exuma, Cat Island, and their adjacent waters. A second Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued from 2:00 am EST to 5:00 am EST Sunday 07th March 2021 for Eleuthera, Cat Island, the Northern Exuma Cays, and their adjacent waters. A third Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued from 5:00 am EST to 7:00 am EST for Eleuthera, North Cat Island, and their adjacent waters. The weather was due to clusters of showers with embedded thunderstorms associated with a low pressure that moved northeastward across and towards the warning areas.

The third week of March (14th – 20th) a persistent high pressure system centered north of the islands weakened as a frontal boundary shifted east of the Bahamas. Moderate to large ocean swells built across the islands through mid-week as another weak cold front became stationary across the Extreme Northwest Bahamas with a developed low pressure in its vicinity. Beachgoers were advised to Exercise Caution along north and east coast beaches due to the risk of rip currents and moderate to large northerly and north-easterly swells. Small Craft Operators were constantly advised to Exercise Caution and at times Advisories across the archipelago, especially as ocean swells increased and more frontal boundaries affected the islands. Mariners were warned of waterspout activity in the vicinity of frontal boundaries, and Beachgoers were made aware of the likelihood of rip currents along northern through southern beached. Small Craft Operators were also advised to be alert for gusty winds and higher seas in or near heavy showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy to variably cloudy skies, warm and a bit breezy conditions triggered some scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms at times. The daytime temperature ranged from the low 80's to the low 90's (°F) and overnight low temperatures were around the mid 60's to upper 70's (°F) across the area. A Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued from 12:20 pm EST to 2:00 pm EST on Friday 19th March 2021 for Western Grand Bahama, North Abaco, and their adjacent waters. The lightning Detection, Doppler Radar, and Satellite Imagery depicted a line of showers with embedded thunderstorms associated with pre-frontal activity moving northeastwards across and towards the warning area. A second Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued from 2:00 pm EST to 4:00 pm EST Friday, 19th March 2021 for Bimini, Central and Eastern Grand Bahama, North Abaco, and their adjacent waters. Finally, the third and last Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued from 4:45 pm EST to 6:45 pm EST Friday, 19th March 2021 for Central and South Abaco, The Berry Islands, and their adjacent waters. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch was issued, at the same time, for North Andros along with its adjacent waters.

The fourth week and last days of March (21st – 31st) saw several low pressure systems form in or near the Extreme Northwest Bahamas then moved northeastwards dragging a cold front

along with a trailing trough through the islands. Small Craft Operators, especially across the Extreme Northwest Bahamas, were advised to be vigilant for possible waterspout development. Beachgoers were advised of the possibility rip currents along Atlantic exposed shorelines. A Small Craft Caution was in effect for all areas due to light to moderate northerly to northeasterly swells. Partly cloudy to variably cloudy skies, humid and warm conditions occurred over most areas with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms mainly in the vicinity of the front/trough. By the 23rd of March, a high pressure ridge built across the Bahamas producing partly to mostly sunny skies, warm and breezy conditions to most islands. As the ridge strengthened, a Small Craft Advisory or Caution went into effect for the Central and Southeast Bahamas, a Small Craft Caution periodically was issued for the Northwest Bahamas. By the end of the week, a strong high pressure ridge shifted eastward as a cold front and pre-frontal activity moved across South Florida and the Extreme Northwest Bahamas. Small Craft Operators were affected by a Small Craft Caution in the Northwest Bahamas and both a Small Craft Caution and a Small Craft Advisory in the Central and Southeast Bahamas. Temperatures around the Bahamas were very wide in range, as highs reached the mid 80's to low 90's (°F) and lows fell near the mid 60's to upper 70's (°F).

General Weather Situation over New Providence for March 2021

The mean maximum daytime temperature of 83.4°F rose 2.5°F above the average for March and the mean minimum overnight temperature of 67.6°F was 1.2°F above normal. The mean relative humidity was 72 percent, which was 3.0 percent below normal for the month. The total rainfall was 0.65 inches, 1.48 inches below the statistical norm. The daily average sunshine hours was 9.6, just 0.9 of an hour above the norm. The winds were predominantly from the southeast through south at an average speed of 8.9 knots, 1.0 knots above the statistical average.



Geoffrey Greene
For (Director)